

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

RSR-01 /064 W

----- 099082

R 031855 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5671

INFO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ UNN

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA UNN

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO UNN

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN UNN

AMCONSUL MERIDA UNN

AMCONSUL MONTERREY UNN

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO UNN

AMCONSUL TIJUANA UNN

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB/ MX

SUBJECT: LABOR DAY MEXICAN STYLE

1. SUMMARY: ESTIMATED ONE MILLION ORGANIZED WORKERS MARCHED BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AT NATIONAL PALACE ON MAY DAY. CEREMONY LASTED OVER FIVE HOURS REPRESENTING PRI- LABOR SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT. PLACARDS AND BANNERS OF MARCHERS ASKED SUPPORT OF FORTY- HOUR WEEK. PRESIDENT TOLD LABOR LEADERS AFTER PARADE THAT GREATER INTEREST AND ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDYING OVERALL EFFECTS OF REDUCING PRIVATE SECTOR WORK HOURS FROM FORTY- EIGHT TO FORTY. END SUMMARY.

2. ECHEVERRIA, FLANKED BY FIDEL VELAZQUEZ, SEC GEN OF CTM, AND OTHER LABOR AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS, WATCHED AN ESTIMATED MILLION MARCHERS PARADE BY VIP BALCONY OF
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PRESIDENTIAL PALACE ON MAY 1. MAJORITY OF MARCHERS WERE FROM CTM UNIONS FOLLOWED BY LARGE REPRESENTATION CROC, RAILROADERS, PETROLEUM WORKERS, FEDERAL DISTRICT SOCIAL SECURITY EMPLOYEES, ELECTRICIANS AND COR. GREAT MAJORITY MARCHERS CARRIED SIGNS DEMANDING ENACTMENT FORTY HOUR WEEK LEGISLATION. CEREMONIES FEDERAL DISTRICT PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY WITHOUT ANI- US PHYSICAL OR VERBAL DEMONSTRATIONS. VIOLENCE OCCURRED IN PUEBLA WHERE ARMED STUDENTS INFILTRATED WORKERS PARADE AND BROUGHT ON SHOOT-OUT WITH POLICE. PRESS REPORTS FOUR STUDENTS KILLED AND DOZEN OR MORE WOUNDED. MONTERREY USIS OFFICER REPORTS VICIOUS ANTI- US STATEMENTS IN PRESS BY CTM AND OTHER NUEVO LEON LABOR LEADERS.

3. COMMENTS: MASSIVENESS OF PARADE AND OBVIOUS PREPARATION REITERATES PRI- LABOR SUPPORT FOR ECHEVERRIA AND ALSO DEMONSTRATES ORGANIZED LABOR' S CAPABILITY TO RALLY SUPPORT ITS CAUSE FOR SHORTER WORK WEEK. HOWEVER, ECHEVERRIA HEDGED COMMENTS TO LABOR LEADERS AFTER PARADE, CLAIMING NEED TO CONSIDER BEST INTERESTS OF COUNTRY AND MORE LABOR- MANAGEMENT INTENSIVE STUDY AND INVESTIGATION REQUIRED.

4. NUMBER OF MARCHERS UNDER UNION BANNER SMALL LEFT- WING REVOLUTINARY WORKER CONFEDERATION (COR) VERY IMPRESSIVE. MAY SIGNIFY GROWTH OF LEFTWING ORGANIZING ACTIVITY WITHIN MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF CONGRESS OF LABOR.

DEAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELAB/ MX
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MEXICO02979
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730534/aaaahnod.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2002 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971120
Subject: LABOR DAY MEXICAN STYLE
TAGS: ELAB, MX, n/a
To: ARA
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SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005